

organism susceptible to its development or the soil. The whole problem, therefore, consists in destroying the seed and in sterilizing the soil. The bacillus of tuberculosis is to be found chiefly in the sputa of consumptives in the advanced stages of the disease, and it is on these sputa that incessant war should be waged. The danger is at a minimum as long as the sputum is in a liquid or moist state, though, as was pointed out in 1885 by the late Professor Pfister of the Montreal Polytechnic School, there is danger from flies and other insects lighting on the moist sputa and carrying the contagion around on their feet or suckers. When the sputum dries it becomes ground up into dust, floats in the air and enters the body through the respiratory organs, and meeting with suitable conditions within the body, becomes the most common and most dangerous of all sources of infection.

This poisonous dust may settle on the clothes, on the hair and fur of dogs and other animals, or may be gathered up by the trailing of dresses of women, and is thus carried into homes where it does not fail to find suitable soil for its growth and development. This same dust may also be blown into open milk cans and bread wagons, into butcher shops, into fruit and vegetable stores and settle on articles of food, and in a thousand other ways find its resting place at last in the human organism.

Ordinances and by-laws against spitting on floors and sidewalks are easily formulated, but the proper carrying out of these ordinances is the difficult part, and here proper training and persuasion will do more than legislation. The consumptive himself must be taught and impressed with the fact that he is a danger to those around him on the same degree that he neglects this precaution in regard to his expectoration.

It must be thoroughly understood and firmly taught that when once consumptives are prevented from expectorating about indiscriminately, one of the greatest, if not the very greatest, cause of the spread of tuberculosis shall have been eliminated.

Tuberculosis infection through the digestive system, though less frequent than through the respiratory, is nevertheless common enough to deserve the most serious attention. The